

**House of Representatives
Children and Family Services
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2003**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
September 18-19	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Family Policy Council 2. Child Hunger	Work Session
December 4-5	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Role of Substance Abuse in Families Involved with Child Protective Services 2. Children and Families of Individuals Involved with Corrections	Work Session

Work Group on Deaf Education in Washington

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
September 17	Half Day	Olympia	Work Group	Deaf Education in Washington	Work Session
December 3	Half Day	Olympia	Work Group	Deaf Education in Washington	Work Session

Work Group on Effective Family Intervention Strategies

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
September 17	Half Day	Olympia	Work Group	Effective Family Intervention Strategies	Work Session
December 3	Half Day	Olympia	Work Group	Effective Family Intervention Strategies	Work Session

Project Title: Deaf Education in Washington

Priority: 1

Completion Date: December 31, 2003

Committee / Staff: Cynthia Forland

Reference:

Other Resources: Interpreter Services

Project Description: The committee has an ongoing interest in the education and training of hearing impaired children in the state. The committee will establish a work group consisting of parents of hearing impaired children, hearing impaired adults, researchers on hearing impairment, individuals who specialize in the education of hearing impaired individuals, representatives of local school districts, educational service districts and the Board of Trustees of the Washington School for the Deaf (WSD), and legislators to consider the respective roles of, and the relationships among, the WSD, local school districts, educational service districts, community services, and community resources in the delivery of effective education to hearing impaired children throughout the state, as well as appropriate service delivery models for those children.

Project Title: WorkFirst Program

Priority: 2

Completion Date: December 31, 2003

Committee / Staff: Cynthia Forland

Reference: HB 1980

Other Resources:

Project Description: The committee has an ongoing interest in the services provided by WorkFirst offices in the state. In particular, the committee is interested in WorkFirst intake and assessment procedures. The Legislature has passed legislation requiring that each WorkFirst recipient must be assessed after determination of program eligibility and before referral to job search, and that each recipient must receive a work skills assessment upon referral to the job search program.

Local Community Services Offices (CSOs) provide the entry point and ongoing contact point for WorkFirst recipients. Local WorkSource Centers assist WorkFirst recipients with employment. At the beginning of the year, the Targeted Wage Initiative (TWI) was implemented in four sites across the state with the goal of providing a locally driven partnership structured to better prepare individuals for the labor market and assist them in finding higher paying initial jobs as soon as possible.

Project Title: Effective Family Intervention Strategies

Priority: 3

Completion Date: December 31, 2003

Committee / Staff: Cynthia Forland

Reference:

Other Resources:

Project Description: The committee has an ongoing interest in exploring effective family intervention strategies that may be implemented in the state. The committee will establish a work group consisting of researchers, service providers, representatives of the Department of Social and Health Services, and legislators to consider service delivery structures, funding distribution, and specific program outcome measures that would maximize resources and provide flexibility in responding to the needs of Washington's children and families.

Project Title: Child Death Investigations

Priority: 4

Completion Date: December 31, 2003

Committee / Staff: Sonja Hallum

Reference:

Other Resources:

Project Description: The committee has an ongoing interest in assuring adequate investigation and reporting of child deaths. In Washington, there is no uniformity among counties in the use of coroners or medical examiners, which may lead to under-investigation of child deaths in the state. The committee will research the child death investigation and reporting process in other states in order to determine whether or not policy changes to Washington's county coroner system would be appropriate.

Project Title: Kinship Care

Priority: 5

Completion Date: Ongoing

Committee / Staff: Cynthia Forland

Reference: SHB 1233

Other Resources:

Project Description: The committee has an ongoing interest in addressing the needs of kinship caregivers across the state. Legislation was enacted requiring the Department of Social and Health Services to: develop a kin search process; seek to establish kinship care navigator pilot projects; and establish an oversight committee to monitor, guide, and report on kinship care recommendations and implementation activities. The committee will monitor the work of the oversight committee.

Project Title: Foster Care Education

Priority: 6

Completion Date: Ongoing

Committee / Staff: Cynthia Forland

Reference: SHB 1058

Other Resources:

Project Description: The committee has an ongoing interest in the education attainment of children in foster care in the state. Legislation was enacted requiring the Department of Social and Health Services to establish an oversight committee, composed of representatives of the Children's Administration, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and advocacy agencies, to develop strategies for maintaining foster children in the schools they were attending at the time they entered foster care. The committee will monitor the work of the oversight committee.

Project Title: Child Hunger

Priority: 7

Completion Date: December 31, 2003

Committee / Staff: Sonja Hallum

Reference:

Other Resources:

Project Description: The committee has an ongoing interest in addressing child hunger in the state. Although poverty rates in Washington are below the national average, the prevalence of food insecurity and hunger are consistently well above the national average. The committee, in coordination with the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, will research and consider available policy options for reducing child hunger in the state, and conduct a work session on this topic during the September committee assembly.

Project Title: Adolescents in Need of Long Term Placement

Priority: 9

Completion Date: Ongoing

Committee / Staff: Cynthia Forland

Reference:

Other Resources:

Project Description: The committee has an ongoing interest in adolescents in the state whose needs are so complex that appropriate services and safe, stable homes are difficult to locate. The Select Committee on Adolescents in Need of Long Term Placement (Select Committee) was established by Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Secretary Braddock in 2002 to assess the needs of these youth. The Select Committee has issued policy and practice reform recommendations, and the DSHS has established priorities to be emphasized in response to those recommendations. The committee will monitor the work of the DSHS in implementing the recommendations of the Select Committee.